

Recount confirms Holyoke City Council election results; Ward 5 incumbent Linda Vacon bests Guy O'Donnell by 18 votes

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HOLYOKE — A recount Friday showed no change in the result of the Ward 5 City Council race, with incumbent Linda Vacon besting newcomer Guy O'Donnell [by 18 votes](#).

O'Donnell collected the necessary signatures for a recount shortly after the Nov. 2 municipal election. However, City Clerk Brenna Murphy McGee said the unofficial Election Day numbers did not change.

Vacon received 854 votes to O'Donnell's 836. Of the 1,763 ballots cast in Ward 5, two were write-ins and 71 were left blank.

"Congratulations to Linda Vacon on being reelected as the Ward 5 City Councilor, and to Guy O'Donnell for his willingness to work for the residents of Ward 5," Murphy McGee said.

She stated she understood that recounts can prove intimidating for candidates and was "always happy" to fulfill recount requests. "I believe it's important for residents to see that the integrity of our elections is always a top priority of mine," she stated.

The city switched to new voting machines for the September preliminary election. Murphy McGee said the tabulators functioned properly.

"I also feel this recount came at a perfect time to show that our new election machines are spot on," she said. "I want to thank everyone who participated, volunteered and viewed today's recount, including the candidates, my staff and the Board of Registrars."

Vacon thanked her husband, John, campaign volunteers and newly elected Councilor at Large Kevin Jourdain, who provided legal representation during the recount.

"Thank you to our City Clerk Brenna McGee and our clerks," Vacon said. "My confidence in our system and the new machines was validated by an orderly recount that resulted in no change to the posted unofficial results."

O'Donnell congratulated Vacon on her victory in a tight race.

"The recount was an amazing thing to see. It is a transparent and reassuring process. I feel lucky to have been involved in the process even though it didn't turn out in my favor," O'Donnell wrote in an email.

He thanked Murphy McGee and her team for ensuring a smooth and efficient process and election.

"I want to thank all the volunteers involved for making this act of democracy possible. A big thanks to all the voters of Ward 5 who heard me out and showed our campaign such kindness," O'Donnell added.